Roy F. Proffitt resigned as associate dean at the end of June after 14 years as an administrator at the Law School. He received his J.D. from Michigan in 1948 and was appointed the School’s first assistant dean in 1956.

He noted in asking to be relieved of his duties as associate dean that the responsibilities of the office had increased so much in both number and complexity that he no longer had time to prepare and teach a course and had little opportunity for his own research and writing or keeping in touch with the Bar.

Proffitt will continue to handle several major administrative jobs. He will serve as director of alumni relations for the Law School, which includes direction of the Law School Fund activities in Ann Arbor. He will also be associate director of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. In addition, he hopes to “read a few law books so that I can re-tool and get back on the teaching rostrum to some extent.”

Observed Dean Allen: “For a decade and one-half, Roy Proffitt has made invaluable contributions to the Law School as a teacher and assistant dean, and more recently as associate dean. His contributions as a counselor and friend of law students have been especially notable. Thousands of Michigan graduates recall with appreciation his sound advice and assistance. Many of these are aware that their own careers were made possible by the sympathetic help he provided in moments of crisis. Few men have a larger ‘family’ and a more admiring one than Roy Proffitt. We know Roy as an effective, dedicated, and compassionate man. I am happy that the School can look forward to his presence and services for many years to come.”

As the School’s first assistant dean, Proffitt undertook to centralize functions previously performed by the secretary of the Law School and several faculty committees. Growth and change characterized most of the matters with which he and his office were concerned.

The student body grew from 879 in 1956 to more than 1,100 in some recent years. The faculty grew from 31 to 56 members; course offerings increased 25 per cent and the number of actual classes increased 38 per cent between 1956 and 1970. Handwork in the administrative offices has not vanished, but much of the process of classification and most of the student records are now handled on data processing equipment.

During the 10 years that Dean Proffitt was responsible for awarding and disbursing scholarships, moral obligation grants, and loans to the students from Law School accounts, the volume of work in that “department” of his office increased from 254 students receiving a total of approximately $118,000 in 1956-57 to 322 students receiving aid totaling $410,933 in 1965-66.

In 1964 Dean Proffitt assumed general direction of the Law School Fund activities in Ann Arbor. During that year there were 2,913 gifts and contributions totaled approximately $145,000. The number of gifts in 1965 reached 4,302 and total contributions reached $283,682.

Among his many committee assignments, Proffitt has served for 14 years on the Law School’s Administrative Committee; he served, in 1966, as the President’s (Hatcher) Commission on Off-Campus Housing, and served in 1967 on another Presidential Commission to study and report on the Student’s Role in Decision Making in the University. In 1964 he was a member of Governor Romney’s Special Commission on Traffic Safety, and since 1965 has served as secretary of the Special Committee of the Michigan Bar to Revise the Michigan Criminal Code.